11. Dewas
12. Sagar
13. Sidhi
14. Rajanandgaon
15. Damoh
16. Mandsaur
17. Bhind
18. Bilaspur
19. Seoni
20. Durg
21. Sehore
22. Khargone
23. Rajgarh
24. Guna
25. Datia
26. Morena
27. Chhatarpur
28. Dhar
29. Ratlam.

South Indian Dishes can cause Cancer

77. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Indian dishes can cause Cancer, as per the news item entitled "South Indian dishes 'can cause' Cancer" which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 5th July, 1991; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to verify the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of Jute Corporation of India

78. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to close down the Jute Corporation of India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and also the reasons therefore;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the current procurement by Jute Corporation of India was less than 10 per cent of the total market arrivals of raw jute; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and also the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Jute Corporation of India Ltd. is only required to conduct price support operation in the eventuality of fall in prices of raw jute below the minimum support levels. The prices of raw jute have, so far, rule well above the minimum support levels during the current jute season. JCI is also permitted to purchase raw jute at its own risk on the basis of firm indents. Such purchases are effected by JCI at the opportune time in exercise of its commercial judgement.

Package of electoral reforms

79. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the meeting of all parties held recently recommended a package of electoral reforms:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof: and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) On the basis of the decisions taken in a meeting of the representatives of all political parties held on 9th January, 1990 under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister a Committee on Electoral Reforms consisting of the representatives of political parties was constituted under the Chairmanship of the then Minister of Law and Justice to go into various proposals on Electoral Reforms. The Committee submitted its report in May, 1990.

(b) and (c) The main recommendations of the Committee are given in the statement. Based on the accepted recommendations of the Committee on Electoral Reforms the following four Bills were introduced in the Rajla Sabha in May, 1990:

1. The Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Bill, 1990
2. The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990
3. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990
4. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1991, (which has since become an Act viz. Act No. 11 of 1991).

The Government is taking further action to pursue the Bills at Serial No. 1 to 3 above However, in view of the incidents in the last General Elections, a greater indepth study of the entire gamut of the electoral reforms wil be undertaken by the Government.

Statement

1. *The Election Commission to be a three member body. The appointment of Chief Election Commissioner to be in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition. The Chief Election Commissioner to be consulted for appointment of other Members.*
2. A fresh delimitation on the basis of 1981 census. Rotation of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes.
3. Introduction of multi-purpose photo identity cards.
4. No individual to be allowed to contest from more than two constituencies.
5. Non-serious candidates to be discouraged. Security deposit of independent candidates to be raised. Forfeiture of security deposit for failure to secure less than 1/4th of the votes polled.
6. Statutory backing for important provisions of model code of conduct.
7. Use of electronic voting machines in all future elections.
8. A series of legislative measures to be undertaken to eradicate booth capturing, rigging and intimidation of voters.
9. State funding in kind to a limited extent to recognised political parties, to begin with.
10. Plying of automobiles, carrying of firearms, sale and distribution of liquor on poll day to be electoral offences.
11. Disqualification under Anti-defection law to be restricted to voluntary resignation and voting or abstention against party whip only in the case of vote of confidence, money bill or vote of thanks to the President. President or Governor to decide the issue of disqualification after obtaining the Election Commission's opinion.
12. Constitution of an Expert Committee to go further into the question of change of the present electoral system.
13. A Standing Committee to the Parliament to go into all electoral matters.